We Claim:

1. A laterally sliding door for closing off a doorway, comprising:

a track panel that extends vertically for substantially the height of the doorway and horizontally between an inward edge of the track panel and an outward edge of the track panel so as to cover a portion of the doorway when the door is closed;

a header for mounting the track panel to a track along which the track panel slides laterally when opening and closing the door;

one or more hinges at the inward edge of the track panel, the inward edge being the edge which is in the direction of door closing; and

a swinging panel pivotally attached to the hinges of the track panel at the inward edge of the track panel, the swinging panel being pivotable from the plane of the track panel in either direction about a substantially vertical axis through the one or more hinges of the track panel when the swinging panel is impacted from one side or the other.

2. The improvement of claim 1, wherein two such door panel assemblies are provided that meet in approximately the center of the doorway and open by moving along the doorway in opposite directions.

3. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the swinging panel is biased to a normal position in which is it aligned with the plane of the track panel.

4. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the swinging panel is detented in a position in which it is aligned with the plane of the track panel.

5. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the track panel and swinging panel can pivot in at least one direction about a substantially horizontal axis.

6. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the track panel is rigid.

7. The improvement of claim 6, wherein the track and swinging panels are rigid.

8. The improvement of claim 6, wherein the track and swinging panels are made of an expanded polystyrene core and fiberglass skins.

9. The improvement of claim 1, further comprising an impact plate covering at least the lower portion of each swinging panel on both sides of each swinging panel.

10. The improvement of claim 1, further comprising a releasable mechanism which holds the bottom of the door panel assembly so that the door panel assembly is in a substantially vertical plane in a normal position of the door panel assembly.

11. The improvement of claim 10, wherein the mechanism comprises a re-engagment member that moves the door panel assembly to the normal position when the door is moved along the doorway.

12. The improvement of claim 10, wherein the mechanism comprises a rail mounted to a wall adjacent to the door panel assembly and a leaf spring mounted to the door panel assembly, with a keeper on the end of the leaf spring that is engaged with the rail in the normal position of the door panel assembly.

13. The improvement of claim 12, wherein the mechanism further comprises a re-engagment member that re-engages the keeper with the rail when the door is moved along the doorway.

14. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the track panel is fixed to the header and the header can pivot in at least one direction about a substantially horizontal axis.

15. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the header extends over the swinging panel and mounts part of a detent mechanism that holds the swinging panel aligned with the plane of the track panel in a normal position of the swinging panel.

16. The improvement of claim 1, wherein a heat tape is provided adjacent to at least one of the edges of the panels.

17. The improvement of claim 1, wherein each of the track panel and the swinging panel are substantially the height of the doorway.

18. The improvement of claim 1, further comprising a sensor at a leading edge of the swinging door that detects if the leading edge has been impacted.

19. The improvement of claim 1, further comprising a sensor that detects if the swinging door has been swung out of the plane of the track panel.